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*News Release***

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**Rebels Uncase Colors Over Iraq**

FORT POLK, La--- The 142d Corps Support Battalion uncased both the national and battalion colors over the sandy desert of central Iraq. The ceremony included the promotion of nine Non-Commissioned Officers and was completed with a brief awards ceremony. The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 142d Corps Support Battalion along with the 603d Transportation Company deployed to the CENTCOM AOR in early April. Since their arrival the Ft. Polk soldiers have been joined by various active and reserve units from Ft. Hood, Ft. Benning, Lafayette, Indiana, Columbia, South Carolina and Abilene, Texas.

The battalion's current mission is to provide logistical support to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment based in Ft. Carson, Colorado and other V Corps units. The 142d CSB Battalion Commander, LTC Mark A. Olinger, provided a motivational speech to the soldiers. He stated, "Everyone standing here before me today will play a significant role in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We will give our best to our portion of the war fighting effort, remain vigilant and return to our home stations safely." Even with the most austere living conditions, soldiers' morale remains on the up slope. They are mission focused and ready to react to whatever tasks they may encounter next.

During the ceremony the following soldiers were promoted to their current rank: 1SG Clayton Chaney, SSG Bettye Brewer, SSG Timothy Wright, SGT Shikenwa Hawkins, 603d Trans. Co.; SSG Joseph King, HHD 142d CSB (Fort Polk); SFC Ralph Woods, SGT Jocelyn Stokes, SGT Christopher Warhawk, 608th ORD Co. (Ft. Benning); SSG Morrease Leftwich, SGT Willie Starks, 16th SIG BN (Ft. Hood).

Four soldiers of the 603d Trans. Co. were decorated with awards as a result of their hard work at Fort Polk prior to deployment. CPL Perry Harrell and PFC Alisha Wren were presented with the Army Commendation Medal. SPC Jawune Johnson and SPC Donta Waddell were given the Army Achievement Medal for their contributions.

SSG Morrease Leftwich said it was an honor being promoted in front of both his peers and the soldiers of the new battalion he will call home during this deployment. "This is something I will always remember. I am happy to be here in a foreign land conducting a vital mission that will assist American soldiers and ultimately the citizens of Iraq."

The 142d Corps Support Battalion will remain in Iraq providing support until their vital mission is complete. They will continue with the same level of élan and esprit de corps during this deployment, as they have on numerous other campaigns in which they are credited for throughout their rich history.

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